General News

CSIR web site sports new functionality and look

The CSIR web site - www.csir.co.za - is sporting new content and has a new look as part of the CSIR's integrated knowledge dissemination initiative.

The key drivers for the new structure of the web site are ease of access to knowledge content; reflection of organisational core ideology (as opposed to structure or operations); and projecting the image of the CSIR as a leading science council, with a very specific role within the National System of Innovation.

From the homepage, visitors can access research areas on the left hand menu, with research outputs and news items packaged per sub areas. Another exciting development is 'CSIR Research Space', an open access repository that provides full text access to some of the research outputs generated by CSIR researchers. Dr Martie van Deventer, Manager: CSIR Information Services (CSIRIS), says more than 900 research papers - searchable by title, author and subject - have been uploaded to date.

The link to CSIR Research Space has various access points throughout the new web site: A link on the main (left) navigational panel; links from the specialised research areas; as well as through the staff profiles of chief and principal researchers and research group leaders.

"Putting digital content into a repository enables organisations to manage and preserve this knowledge - deriving maximum benefit from it. We are not talking about research papers only, but also about scientific posters and presentations delivered at conferences; patent details; books; book chapters; and full text research reports. Knowledge, captured in a variety of formats, can be collected in and accessed via the repository.

An integrated powerful web-based statistics system provides data on the number of downloads per item. This detail is available 24/7 to anyone interested," she says.